**2020 Summer Winter Research Project Description**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project title:** | **Social cognitive ageing** |
| **Positions available:** | **2** |
| **Project duration and delivery** | ~ 25 hours per week for 10 weeks. The project requires on-site attendance. |
| **Description:** | Two related projects are available, which will broadly focus on better understanding age-related changes in social cognition. Social cognition refers to the capacity to detect, decode, and respond to social information in the environment, and is therefore a fundamental neurocognitive capacity. Indeed, the critical role of social cognition in functional disability is now well established, with social cognitive difficulties linked to poor quality of life, mental health problems, unemployment, and loneliness. It is therefore of considerable concern that, even in the absence of pathology, older age appears to be associated with decline in many core aspects of social cognitive function. The two projects available will aim to better understand the predictors and consequences of age-related change in social cognitive ageing, with a particular focus on stress, aggression, and sleep disturbances. |
| **Expected outcomes and deliverables:** | The successful student will be responsible for helping to recruit older adults (including scheduling, prescreening), and conducting testing sessions (which will include both administering a broader standardised cognitive assessment, as well as validated measures of social cognition). You will be required to work effectively in a team. |
| **Suitable for:** | We are looking for highly motivated students to assist with this project over the summer. Although this project is open to all students, it would be most suited to a 3rd or 4th year psychology student who has a particular interest in ageing research. All necessary training will be provided. |
| **Primary Supervisor:** | Professor Julie Henry |
| **Further info:** | If you have any questions about the project, please feel free to email Professor Julie Henry.  Key background reference:  Henry, J. D., von Hippel, W. H., Molenberghs, P., Lee, T., & Sachdev, P. (2016). Clinical assessment of social cognitive function in neurological disorders. Nature Reviews Neurology, 12, 28-39. |
| **Will you be collaborating with an external organisation on this project (for example NGO, government agency or private industry)?** | N/A |